

Environment & Energy Commission

City of Columbia & Boone County

Daniel Boone Building, Third Floor Conference Room

Minutes of Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Present: Barbara Buffaloe, Jean Sax, Dan Goldstein, Alyce Turner, Bob Walters, Dick Parker, Kip Kendrick, Teresa Hunter

Absent: David Brodsky, Dillon Wyatt, Tom O'Connor

Guests: J. Kraig Kahler, Water and Light Director; Scott Bitterman, Public Works Department; Kay Hunvald, League of Women Voters; Linda Waterborg, Missourian

City Staff Liaison: Stephanie Brown

Ms. Buffaloe called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

The agenda was approved with changes.

MINUTES

The minutes for August 26, 2008 were approved with changes.

REGIONAL TRAVEL GUEST SPEAKER – STEVE TATLOW

Steve Tatlow from Boone County Community Partnership (BCCP) gave a presentation on the proposal for a possible regional travel program that would include Boone County and Jefferson City. He said BCCP has established several non-profit organizations. He said the Mid-Missouri Transportation Alliance assisted BCCP with a study that found that inadequate transportation ranked in the top three amongst different demographic groups. He said the group has recommended establishing a rural transit pilot project that would include routes from Columbia to Sturgeon, Centralia, and Hallsville and back to Columbia; and from Columbia to Ashland, Jefferson City and back to Columbia. He said one of the biggest concerns is the allocation of government funds and grants, where other funding will come from and who will commit to donations. He said people surveyed were willing to pay \$5 roundtrip. The most popular reasons to commute were medical, to spend money and employment.

Ms. Sax suggested that Mr. Tatlow give a presentation to the Board of Health. She will talk to the Chair and Stephanie Browning, the head of the Department of Health.

Mr. Goldstein inquired whether the school bus system has worked with the City transit system. Mr. Tatlow said he has visited with the Ashland and Centralia school districts about utilizing the school buses during non-operational hours.

Ms. Turner said she along with Mr. Goldstein will draft a letter to the City Council informing them of the presentation and the EEC's endorsement.

NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY AND URBAN FOREST MASTER PLAN

Ms. Buffaloe said Assistant City Manager Tony St. Romaine sent an email stating that the City is planning a public meeting in October to review the Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) project. Mr. Goldstein made a motion to include the land preservation status in the report that he will indicate in a letter to the City Council. Mr. Parker seconded the motion. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Ms. Buffaloe said John Fleck, the GIS Coordinator for the City will be a guest speaker for the October meeting and she will invite Lou Phemister, the City Arborist to the meeting. Ms. Sax said Pat Smith or another member of the Boone County Planning and Zoning Commission will attend the October meeting as well.

Ms. Sax said intern students under the direction of the City Manager conducted a survey and gathered information on Urban Forest Master Plans. The EEC will request a report for the next meeting. She said Mr. Phemister would like the EEC to encourage the City Council to approve the development of an Urban Forest Master Plan.

TRAFFIC LIGHT SEQUENCING

The letter submitted to the City Council by the EEC gained recognition through Missourian reporter Linda Waterborg. Scott Bitterman is a Traffic Engineer for the City. He said the City has asked for a report on the traffic report card. He said public request effect a large part of what his division does.

MAYOR'S CLIMATE PROTECTION AGREEMENT

Mr. Walters said in the letter he would like to specify the appropriate department that would handle the largest part of the implementation for that item and give examples of what other cities are doing. He would also like staff from each department to give their current policies in regards to the subject. Ms. Buffaloe said she will contact Connie Kacprowicz of the Water and Light Department and Bill Watkins regarding their progress in collecting information on how the City is complying with the requirements of the resolution. Ms. Turner motioned to forward the letter to the City Council and to City staff. Mr. Goldstein made a second motion. The motion was approved by voice vote.

RECYCLING

Mr. Goldstein made a motion to send the report provided by Mr. Parker on recycling along with a cover letter to the City Council. Mr. Parker seconded the motion. The motion was approved by voice vote. The EEC requested that the letter and the report be posted to the EEC section of the City website.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS OF COMMISSIONER

Ms. Buffaloe announced the production of "Kilowatt Our's" a documentary about energy usage and costs with a panel discussion following. She said she will be on the backup panel. Other panelists will be Bill Watkins, Michelle Gadbois of the Columbia Public School Board, Paul Coleman of the MU Campus Facilities Energy Management, and Annie Pope of the Homebuilders Association.

Ms. Buffaloe said the Solar One ground breaking will be October 9, 2008.

COMMENTS OF VISITORS

Kraig Kahler said ground source heat pumps and solar voltaic systems above a certain amount of kilowatts have been added as eligible items for the Rebate Program through the Water and Light Department.

UPCOMING MEETING ITEMS

1. October – Guest speakers, John Fleck and Lou Phemister
2. November – Guest speaker Fred Mallicoat of the Building Construction Codes Commission.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Prepared by: Stephanie Brown, City Staff Liaison